

LOG OF MEETING
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER NANCY A. NORD

8/24/05
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WITH PORTFOLIO REMOVED

SUBJECT: ATVs

DATE OF MEETING: August 17, 2005

PLACE: Room 714, CPSC Headquarters

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Quin Dodd

DATE OF ENTRY: August 29, 2005

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Commissioner Nancy A. Nord
Roy Deppa
Quin Dodd
Michael Gougisha
Hope Johnson
Elizabeth Leland
Nicholas Marchica
Suad Nakamura
Caroleene Paul
Rob Raffety
Nancy Sachs
Howard Tarnoff

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Janell Mayo Duncan, Legislative and Regulatory Counsel, Consumers Union
Donald L. Mays, Senior Director, Product Safety and Consumer Sciences Operations, Consumers Union
Sean Oberle, Product Safety Letter
Leonard Goldstein
Michael Weingard, Eckert, Seamans, Chewn & Mellot (representing Kawasaki)

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Ms. Duncan and Mr. Mays expressed Consumer Union's (CU's) general concern about the number of ATV injuries and deaths in the United States and about the potential for even more accidents as ATVs become increasingly popular in this country. While CU does support efforts to enact state legislation mandating safe use of ATVs, it also believes that the machines themselves should be re-examined for possible safety improvements, including a review of rollover (lateral stability) standards, possible driver cages and

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restraints, and electronic stability systems (as many SUVs and passenger trucks apparently now have). CU's position is also different from some others advocating state safety legislation in that CU believes that no person under 16 years old should ride any ATV.

With regard to a review of ATV stability standards, Mr. Mays and Ms. Duncan discussed a willingness to work with the CPSC to review the issue, possibly involving field testing at CU's vehicle testing facility in Connecticut. CU indicated that they have not conducted any recent overall or comparative review of ATVs, but said such was currently under consideration and might include a comparison of more established ATV lines (that are presumably in compliance with existing, voluntary safety standards) with "new entrant" ATV models that may not be. Roy Deppa of the CPSC then described briefly problems the Commission faced during ATV tests in the 1980s in differentiating vehicle performance from a variety of driver and surface conditions in realistic testing circumstances. It was agreed that a follow-up meeting should take place between CPSC technical staff and CU in the near term to determine whether and to what extent stability data and testing procedures need to be revisited.